

# **Catch Card Census for Highly Migratory Species**

## **Statement of Work**

**(Optional Add-on to the 2005-2006 Large Pelagic Intercept  
Survey Statement of Work)**

## **1. Background**

Since 1992, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has conducted the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) to collect fishing effort and catch data for the hand-gear fishery directed at "large pelagic species" (e.g., tunas, billfishes, swordfish, sharks, wahoo, dolphin, and amberjack) in the offshore marine waters of the Northeast Region (Maine through Virginia). Because large pelagic species are only sought on a relatively small proportion of the total marine recreational angler fishing trips made in the Northeast Region, the fishing effort directed at such species, and the resulting angler catches are generally not estimated very precisely by the Agency's Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). Therefore, the LPS was designed as a specialized survey that would focus specifically on the recreational hand-gear fishery directed at large pelagic species. However, for certain rare event large pelagic species the estimates of harvest produced using the LPS are still less precise than desired. In addition, LPS was designed to produce reasonably precise estimates at the regional and subregional level, not at the state level of analysis. The Catch Card Census (CCC) program is intended to improve upon some of the shortcomings of the LPS. When used in combination, the two programs (LPS and CCC) will complement each other and generate better data with which to manage important large pelagic recreational species. The CCC should have the added benefit of promoting angler awareness, participation and "buy-in" into the management of large pelagic species. Large pelagics catch card programs are currently being conducted by state marine resource agencies in North Carolina and Maryland. This SOW addresses the expansion of these programs to other LPS states from Maine through Virginia. For purposes of data collection consistency this SOW closely matches the protocols established for the North Carolina and Maryland card catch programs.

## **2. Basic Study Design**

The basic design will require mandatory reporting of certain recreationally landed highly migratory species (HMS). The highly migratory species included in the CCC program are: blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, Atlantic bluefin tuna, and swordfish. For purposes of this document these five species will be referred to as CCC species. To ensure collection of census data, the following measures will be utilized:

1. Captains or operators of permitted vessels will be required to complete a catch card to be submitted at a reporting station in exchange for a landing tag. A catch card must be submitted for each individual fish landed. Catch cards will be widely available from marinas, state marine resource agencies, large pelagic species tournaments, and other sources. The operator of the permitted vessel will be responsible for the proper completion of the catch card.
2. All five CCC species (listed above) that are harvested recreationally in the states covered must have attached a landing tag prior to removal from the vessel. Trailered vessels with CCC species on board may not be removed from the water until all the fish are tagged. Any off-loaded CCC species observed without an attached landing

- tag will indicate a violation.
3. Anglers arriving at the dock after hours (i.e. after reporting stations have closed) and therefore cannot get landings tags are instructed to call a 1-800 number to report their CCC species landings.
  4. The NMFS will establish appropriate rules or processes to implement the procedures noted above and further described below.

### **3. General Requirements**

The contractor will be responsible for the following tasks:

#### **1. Cooperative Outreach and Education**

Information delivery and education will be a critical component for the success of this program. The Contractor will work with all project participants to use whatever outreach mechanisms they have to inform HMS fishery participants of the reporting requirements contained in this proposal. The Contractor will work with NMFS and the appropriate state agencies to implement cooperative outreach activities to ensure that affected anglers and businesses are aware of this project and its potential benefits. Under this project, the contractor will perform the following tasks:

- Work with NMFS on a program description for public distribution
- Send a notice about the catch card census by mail to HMS permit holders prior to the start of the program. The notice, which will be approved by NMFS, will include a description of the program, the program's objectives, and a list of official CCC reporting stations in the angler's state of residence. NMFS will provide the list of angler names and addresses for this mailing. Notices will be sent to permit holders in the state(s) covered by this option. Notices may also need to be sent to HMS permit holders in nearby states if a substantial number of these out-of-state anglers land CCC species in the state(s) covered.
- Work with state marine resource agencies and NMFS on agency issued news releases
- Contact media and provide the program description
- Develop and maintain a list of CCC reporting stations (see item 2 below for more detail)
- Utilize contractor port agents to inform fishing industry members and other stakeholders about the program
- Work with states and NMFS to place program information and landings results on official agency websites
- Design, produce, and distribute posters with reporting requirements, reporting station and kiosk locations, information about the after hours hotline, and how to obtain additional information

- Establish other means of educational outreach as necessary and with NMFS and state agency input and approval

## 2. Establishment of Reporting Stations

The Contractor will work with NMFS, the appropriate state agencies, and HMS recreational fishing industry representatives to establish reporting stations in close proximity to all sites where CCC species are landed throughout the program area (see Attachment 1 for example of North Carolina reporting station list). The reporting stations will be responsible for collecting catch cards and distributing tags for compliance purposes. All of the key marinas will be contacted to participate in the tagging program.

The reporting station list is a deliverable under this contract and should be updated as necessary throughout the contract period. Reporting station lists should include contact persons, phone numbers, addresses and directions for Contractor port agents use. Stations will include marinas, tackle shops, and other fishing centers. The Contractor will use public relations and outreach techniques to elicit the cooperation of these sites in the collection of catch cards and distribution of NMFS CCC tags. The Contractor will work with NMFS and the appropriate state agencies to develop a written cooperative agreement between NMFS, the state agency and the CCC reporting stations. As part of the outreach effort, the Contractor will get all CCC reporting stations to sign this agreement and will return all original, signed documents to NMFS. Contractor port agents will take every opportunity to remind the people working at reporting stations of the importance of this program and the need to collect accurate and thorough information.

HMS tournaments should also be contacted for participation and a separate list of HMS tournaments should be maintained (see Attachment 2 for example from North Carolina). Prior to HMS tournaments, Contractor port agents will attend the tournament's captains meeting to promote the CCC program and emphasize the need for accuracy in reporting all CCC species landings via the catch cards. The HMS tournament list is a deliverable under this contract and should be updated as necessary throughout the contract period. The Contractor's port agents and tournament liaison will also function as mobile reporting stations as needed, as well as keeping other reporting stations supplied with catch cards and landings tags.

## 3. Catch Card Development

The Contractor will be responsible for development and printing of catch cards to be distributed to the reporting stations. Catch cards will be designed to facilitate reporting of CCC species. The catch card design must be as user-friendly as possible and require a minimum of time for completion. Only those data relative to reporting compliance with the landing and tagging program will be included. Catch cards can be provided to vessel operators in advance or obtained from the reporting stations and other authorized agents.

Catch cards should be designed so that they include a written receipt given to the angler that can be matched by identification number to the catch card and the fish tag.

Listed below are the mandatory data elements to be included on the catch cards:

- Reporting station identification (station number and name)
- Date of landing
- Landing tag number
- Atlantic HMS permit number , as applicable
- Vessel name and type (Charter/Private/Headboat)
- Length in inches of CCC species landed (curved fork length for tuna, and lower jaw fork length for billfish)
- Tournament participation
- CCC species landed
- Fish weight will also be recorded by the angler when available

An example of a catch card used to collect HMS landings information in North Carolina is provided as Attachment 3. The Contractor may be requested to produce two different catch cards; one for Atlantic bluefin tuna and one for the four species of billfish.

#### 4. Distribution of Landings Tags

Landings tags for CCC species will be non-reusable and very similar to those used previously to identify CCC species landed recreationally in North Carolina and Maryland. Each tag will have a unique I.D. number that will be recorded onto the catch card. The Contractor will supply and distribute tags to reporting stations and will account for each tag as it is distributed, as it is used, and at the end of the season, maintaining these data in a spreadsheet or SAS dataset. Reporting station contacts will be asked by Contractor port agents to fill out a tag verification form (developed by NMFS) verifying receipt of CCC tags. Landings tag distribution will be reconciled with catch card submittals by reporting station, and summary data will be provided in the monthly data summaries and in the final project report (see items 8 and 9 below).

#### 5. Catch Card Data Collection

The Contractor will collect completed catch cards from various reporting stations throughout the program area on a weekly basis. Contractor port agents participating in the program will be trained to identify CCC species as well as other highly migratory species (HMS) caught in their area. Port agents should also be knowledgeable about HMS fisheries in their area and stay current with HMS regulations. Contractor port agents will also need to spend some time at the various reporting stations during periods of high HMS fishing activity and during tournaments. During such times agents will be expected to assist with the program, speed up the tagging process to reduce vessel backups, answer questions about the program, and perform other program related tasks as

necessary.

#### 6. Incomplete or Inconsistent Catch Cards

Based on initial inspection of the collected catch cards, some may be found to be either incomplete, ambiguous or filled out incorrectly by HMS anglers. In other cases the information on the catch cards may be inconsistent with information from the NMFS HMS permit list. In such instances the Contractor will attempt to contact the angler by phone using the HMS permit holder list provided by NMFS (assuming the HMS permit number is written on the catch card and can be linked to a phone number on the list). In order to minimize recall bias, anglers with incomplete catch cards should be contacted within three weeks from the time the catch cards were collected from the reporting station. A minimum of ten contact attempts should be made to reach such anglers on the phone. Disposition of catch card information validation calls and results of completed calls should be included in the monthly and annual project summary reports delivered to NMFS.

#### 7. After Hours Reporting Hotline

Some vessels with CCC species landings may return to the dock after all nearby reporting stations have closed for the day. To capture landings information from such vessels the Contractor will set-up a toll free number for anglers arriving at the dock after hours to report their landings. This method of reporting is restricted to after hours landings only. Information obtained will match that obtained on the catch card. The Contractor will also work with NMFS and the appropriate state agencies to establish kiosks where anglers can obtain, fill out and deposit catch cards after hours (landings tags will not be distributed at kiosks).

#### 8. Catch Card Data Processing and Summarization

Catch card data will be key-entered into a SAS dataset by the contractor. The Contractor will mail completed catch cards and SAS datasets to the NMFS, Silver Spring office on a monthly basis unless the need to increase reporting frequency is demonstrated. The Contractor will also prepare summaries of harvest data which will be reported to NMFS on monthly basis. Harvest data should be summarized at the state, month, vessel type (charter, private, headboat) and species level. Harvest data summaries should also include tables comparing tournament versus non-tournament landings at the state, month and species level. Length frequencies should also be presented for each species at the state/month level of analysis.

Monthly reports should also include a table summarizing information from the tag verification forms. A summary of catch card information validation calls (for incomplete catch cards, see item 6 above) should also be included. Monthly reports should also

include a detailed discussion of any problems encountered in collecting catch cards, establishing reporting stations or performing any other tasks essential to the success of this program.

#### 9. Final Report

On an annual basis the Contractor will prepare a final report summarizing data collected under this contract. Data collection procedures used in the catch card census will be described. The final report will include the following

- A list of CCC species landings by port and mode of fishing
- Cumulative annual tables containing the same CCC species landings information and level of detail presented in the monthly reports (see item 8 above)
- A discussion of any problems encountered in conducting this work, and
- Recommendations for improvements to the CCC program for future years

## 4. Project Scope and Period

As an option to the LPIS 2005-2006 the Catch Card Census can be added in any one or combination of the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia. The CCC will be implemented from June 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Sufficient time (prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>) should be allowed for completion of start-up tasks necessary for the collection of catch cards to begin in June. When costing this work, the Contractor should provide separate costs for each state (see “Costing” below) and for each option year (2005 and 2006).

## 5. Deliverables

Item Description	When Due
A. Brief program description for public dissemination, outreach letter to HMS permit holders, and reporting station cooperative agreement form	At least one month prior to field implementation
B. Complete list of CCC reporting stations	Initially at least one month prior to field implementation; updated monthly
C. Educational outreach posters	At least one month prior to field implementation
D. Complete list of HMS tournaments	Initially at least one month prior to field implementation; updated monthly
E. Catch card design sample and landings tag selection	At least one month prior to field implementation
F. Completed catch cards	Monthly
G. SAS datasets with key entered, error free, catch card information including after hours hotline data	Monthly
H. Monthly data summary reports	Monthly
I. Final report	Within one month of the end of catch card reporting period

## 6. Costing

As an option to the LPIS contract, NOAA Fisheries is requesting that the LPIS Contractor provide costing information for the above SOW. To reserve the option to conduct this work in any one or combination of states we are asking for separate costing for each state and year as indicated in the table below:

**Year: 2005**

State/Territory	Catch Card Reporting Period	Cost
Maine	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
New Hampshire	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Massachusetts	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Rhode Island	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Connecticut	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
New York	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
New Jersey	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Delaware	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Virginia	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	



**Year: 2006**

State/Territory	Catch Card Reporting Period	Cost
Maine	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
New Hampshire	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Massachusetts	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Rhode Island	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Connecticut	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
New York	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
New Jersey	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Delaware	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Virginia	June 1 <sup>st</sup> through October 31 <sup>st</sup>	

Attachment 1. Distribution of the current North Carolina HMS 25 reporting stations.

Reporting Station	Port (Location)	Contact person	Telephone	FAX
Oden's Dock	Hatteras	Dan Oden	252-986-2555	252-986-2715
Hatteras Harbor Marina	Hatteras	Lisa Engelhardt	252-986-2166	252-986-2762
Village Marina	Hatteras	Larry Bonney	252-986-2522	252-986-2762
Teach's Lair Marina	Hatteras	Calvin Wright	252-986-2406	252-986-1303
Ballance Oil Company	Hatteras	Bill Ballance	252-986-2156	252-986-2421
Hatteras Landing Marina	Hatteras	Lane Miller	252-986-2205	252-986-1140
Anchorage Marina	Ocracoke	Sue Polek	252-928-6661	252-928-6322
Pirates Cove	Manteo	Toby Russ	252-473-3906	252-473-2807
Oregon Inlet Fishing Center	Manteo	Minta Meekins	252-441-6301	252-441-7385
Harker's Island Fishing Center	Harker's Island	Robert Pasfield	252-728-3907	252-728-6405
Town Creek Marina	Beaufort	Sherry Huddleston	252-728-6111	252-728-4053
Seawater Marina	Atlantic Beach	Darryl Morgan	252-726-1637	252-726-3219
Captain Stacy's Fishing Center	Atlantic Beach	Sonny & Loretta Davis	252-726-4675	252-247-2347
Anchorage Marina	Atlantic Beach	Tony Moineau & Bill Schlegel	252-726-4426	252-726-0074
Bahama Bob's	Atlantic Beach	Marty Hiatt	252-247-2014	252-247-3362
Joe Shute's Tackle	Atlantic Beach	Joe Shute	252-240-2744	252-240-0276
Carolina Princess Dock	Morehead City	Beverly Kirkland	252-726-5479	252-242-3486
Gulf Dock	Morehead City	Mac Mizelle	252-726-5461	252-726-0067
Island Harbor Marina	Emerald Isle	Jim Woolard	252-354-3106	252-247-9437
Nancy Lee Fishing Center	Swansboro	Lee Manning	252-354-3474	910-326-6917
Bridge Tender Marina	Wrightsville Beach	Tripp Brice	910-256-3636	910-256-2723
Boathouse Marina	Wrightsville Beach	Bonnie Clayton	910-350-0023	910-392-6710
Seagull Bait and Tackle	Carolina Beach	Steve Lablanc	910-458-7135	910-458-7911
Sure Catch Tackle	Southport	Nelson Cobble	910-457-4545	n/a
Holden Beach Marina	Holden Beach	Posse Tatrow	910-842-5447	910-842-5558

Attachment 2. North Carolina Governor's Cup participating tournaments

<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Date</u>
HATTERAS VILLAGE OFFSHORE OPEN Hatteras Phone: 252-986-2460	May
CAP'N FANNIES BILLFISH TOURNAMENT Atlantic Beach Phone: 252-726-4423	May
SWANSBORO ROTARY 2002 MEMORIAL DAY BLUE MARLIN FISHING TOURNAMENT Swansboro Phone: 910-326-FISH (3474)	May
14TH ANNUAL DUCKS UNLIMITED BILLFISH TAG AND RELEASE TOURNAMENT Morehead City Phone: 336-668-2736	August
BIG ROCK BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT Morehead City Phone: 252-247-3575	June
CAPE FEAR BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT Wrightsville Beach Phone: 910-256-6550	June
PIRATES COVE 19TH ANNUAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT Manteo Phone: 1-800-422-3610	August



# North Carolina Highly Migratory Catch



Date 

Yea	Mont	Da
04		

Reporting Station \_\_\_\_\_

Highly Migratory Permit Number \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name \_\_\_\_\_

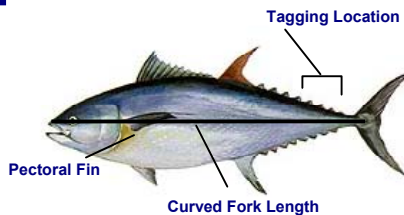
Trip (check one) 

Charter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headboat	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tournament 

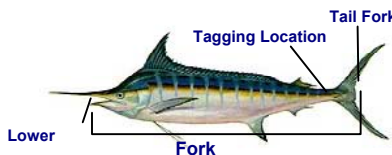
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Tag Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(obtained at reporting



Curved Fork (inches) \_\_\_\_\_

Bluefin tuna should be measured from the tip of upper jaw to the top side of the pectoral fin to the fork of the



Fork Length (any billfish species) \_\_\_\_\_  
Pounds (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Billfishes should be measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the middle of the fork of the caudal (tail)

## Check Billfish Species Landed



Blue

☐


White

☐


Sailfis

☐


Swordfish

☐